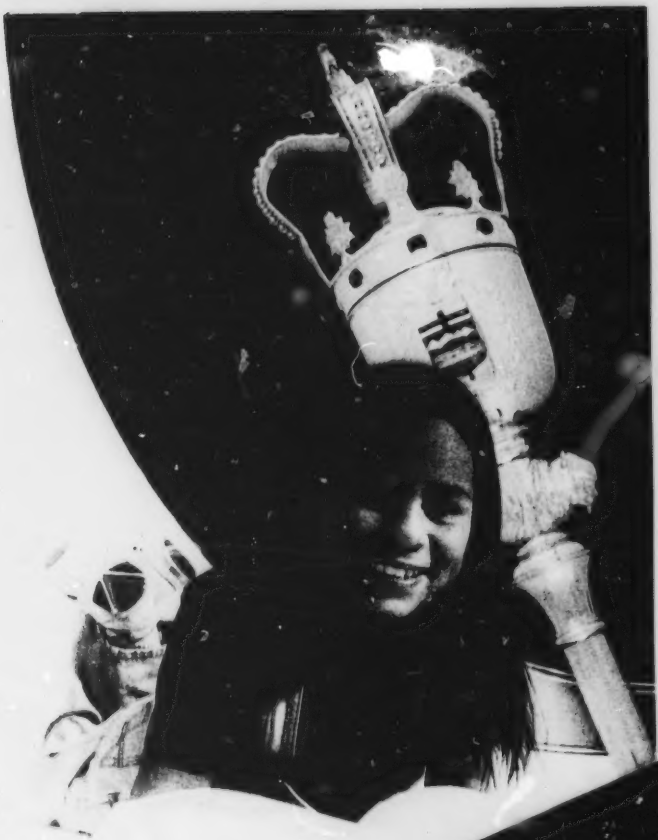

SCHOOL at the LEGISLATURE

Putting Life into Learning

Vellum cover stock donated by Quality Color Press.

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102-03793/

Table of Contents

Speaker's Message 7

History 13

Year in Review 19

Getting the Word Out 29

The Year Ahead 37

Dollars and Cents. 43

Appendices

A: Curriculum Connections i

B: Evaluation Summary v

C: Letters of Support ix

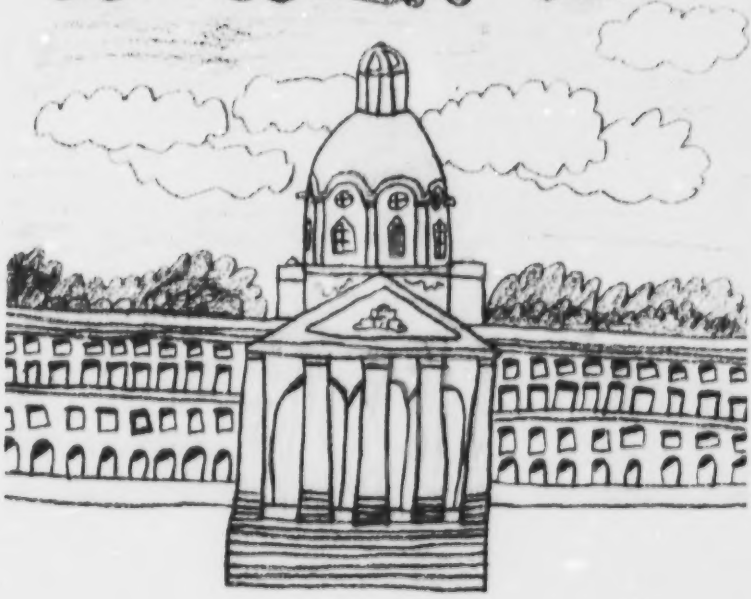
Grade six classes should all have the opportunity to participate in this program.. it's all really fun and interesting and they can learn so much more about government by actually being there.

A grade 6 student

Grade six classes should all have the opportunity to participate in this program. It's all really fun and interesting and they can learn so much more about government by actually being there.

A grade 6 student

A WEEK AT



THE LEG!

Speaker's Message

In 1998 the Legislative Assembly embarked on an ambitious journey: to build a Legislature classroom where grade 6 students and teachers would experience the Legislature Building as they never had before. From that single idea, and through the generosity of three community partners—Shaw Communications, Capital City Savings, and the Quality Group—School-at-the-Legislature was born.

This year more than 600 students are expected to attend school at the Alberta Legislature—600 students who will have an intimate look at the inner workings of government and the parliamentary traditions that have guided Assemblies for centuries. Six hundred students, who, through this experience, are given the opportunity to become well-informed, responsible citizens.

While this report is an account of the program's progress to date, there is something else to be found within its pages: testimonials from students and teachers who have been engaged in learning. We hope they make our House their classroom for many years to come.

Ken Kowalski

The Honourable Ken Kowalski,
MLA, Barrhead–Westlock
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

History

The only whey I could understand government at all was to not miss one day of school in this howl week.

A grade 6 student

History

School-at-the-Legislature, first initiated as a pilot project in 1998, has grown to a full-time program, with more than 600 grade 6 students projected to attend during the 2000–01 school year. The Legislature community has embraced the program, volunteering time for student interviews so students can come away with an in-depth and hands-on experience of the parliamentary process.

In November 2000, School-at-the-Legislature was officially launched during a ceremony at the Alberta Legislature. This was made possible with the generous support of community partners Shaw Communications, Capital City Savings and Credit Union, and the Quality Group of Companies. With their support, School-at-the-Legislature now has a full-time co-ordinator to bring the program to its full potential.

Program Objectives

- To provide students with a memorable and fun-filled learning experience of Alberta's parliamentary democratic process.
- To facilitate interdisciplinary learning experiences at the Legislature that complement the Alberta curriculum.
- To convey to the educational community and the public that the Legislature and the parliamentary process belong to them.
- To provide MLAs and Legislature staff an opportunity to participate in the teaching and the learning experience of children.

A Year in Review

Our Trip to the Legislature

Our trip to the legislature was for one whole week. The tours were really good. I remember things better when I see them, especially when they're neat.

A grade 6 student

SATL Enrollment

The program experienced a jump in bookings for 2001–02 from seven classes to 23. See tables 1 and 2 for the number of participants enrolled in the program and a list of schools.

In June 2001 the Assembly hosted a workshop in the School-at-the-Legislature classroom to prepare teachers for the program. The workshop gave them an opportunity to create a lesson plan for the week and develop a support network for sharing ideas.

Table 1: Participation

	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02*
Classes	3	5	7	22
Students	74	123	195	600
Teachers	3	6	8	25
Volunteers	15	16	26	250
Total	92	145	229	875

Table 2: Participating Schools[1]

Year	Elementary School	
1998/99	Minchau	25
	Grovenor	24
	Crestwood	25
		74
1999/00	McArthur	31
	McArthur	16
	St. Gerard	25
	Mee-Yah-Noh	26
	Mount Royal	25
		123
2000/01	Westbrook	28
	Patricia Heights	38
	Westbrook	28
	Westbrook	26
	Lee Ridge	23
	John A. McDougall	27
	Julia Kiniski	25
		195

2001/02 projected	Belvedere	25
	Lymburn	24
	Lymburn	27
	Patricia Heights*	42
	Greenfield	28
	Greenfield	22
	St. Boniface	28
	Lymburn	28
	Westbrook	26
	Lymburn	25
	McCauley	25
	Bisset	25
	Bisset	25
	Bisset	25
	Bisset	25
	Fulton Place	25
	Lee Ridge	25
	St. Gerard	25
	Leo Nickerson	25
	Westbrook	25
	Sir Alexander MacKenzie	25
	Keenooshayo	25
	Keenooshayo	25
	Westbrook	25
		600

[1] Several schools sent more than one class.

Let's Talk!

The Members and staff of the Assembly have been involved in the program since the beginning and continue to share their knowledge and experience with students. Students book interviews to learn about the specific roles and responsibilities of offices and departments that encompass the Legislative community.

The students' contact list includes the Lieutenant Governor, elected officials, Legislative Assembly Office staff, members of the press gallery, and department heads, along with grounds and security staff at the Legislature.

My Interview Checklist

- ☑ The Lieutenant Governor's Office
- ☑ The Speaker's Office
- ☑ The Premier's Office
- ☑ Government Members
- ☑ Liberal Opposition Members
- ☑ New Democrat Opposition Members
- ☑ The Clerk of the Assembly
- ☑ The Clerk Assistant
- ☑ Financial Management/Admin. Services
- ☑ Human Resource Services
- ☑ Information Systems Services
- ☑ Legislature Library
- ☑ Parliamentary Counsel
- ☑ Public Information Branch & Hansard
- ☑ The Sergeant-at-Arms & Visitor Services

- ☑ The Press Gallery
- ☑ Legislature Building and Pedway Security
- ☑ The Department of Infrastructure

Feedback

The response from students, teachers, parents, MLAs, and Assembly staff has been very positive. Teachers and students are asked to complete an evaluation within six weeks after their class visit to provide feedback and suggest improvements to the program; some of this feedback is summarized in Appendix A.

Several letters of support (printed following Appendix B) were also provided. Some excerpts from these letters follow.

"This program had the most significant impact on student learning for my students of last year."
—Lorraine Williamson, St. Gerard Catholic School

"Though we have finished the program my students and parents are still talking about the field trip."
—Stacey Mayoh, Greenfield School

"This inventive province-wide program allows Grade 6 students and teachers hands-on experience into the realities of politics, the parliamentary process, as well as the chance to meet some of the members of the current government."
—Premier Ralph Klein

Getting the Word Out

This week I learned that the sergeant-at-arms carries the mace into the house and I learned that the Lieutanent governer represents the Queen of England.

A grade 6 student

Getting the Word Out

This week I learned that the sergeant at arms carries the mace into the house and I learned that the Lieutenant Governor represents the Queen of England.

A grade 6 student

Her Honour The Honourable Lois Hole with a group of students.

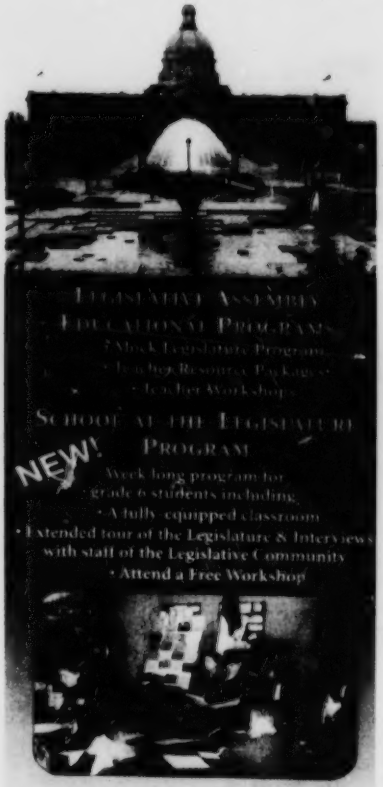
Getting the word out

Since the launch, the Legislative Assembly has promoted the program through mail-outs, teacher workshops, advertisements, and the program web site. A list of 2001 promotional activities follows.

February	CBC Radio One interview with a participating teacher highlights the program and its benefit to students.
March	Global Television's morning show talks to a class from Patricia Heights elementary school and Legislative Assembly Office staff about the program.
April	Mail-out to Edmonton and area schools, including St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Parkland County, Fort Saskatchewan, and the County of Leduc.
April	SATL information provided to more than 60 delegates at the Canadian Capital Cities Organization Conference in Quebec City, PQ.
April/May	School-at-the-Legislature ad placed in the Alberta Teachers' Association magazine and two issues of the Alberta Teachers' Association news. (A copy of the ad follows this section).
April/May	Information sessions held at Patricia Heights, Westbrook, and Lee Ridge elementary schools. Three to six teachers per session.

September	Provincewide mail-out to school districts and elementary schools. More than 2,000 brochures are distributed to grade 6 teachers.
September	Program information provided to 15 delegates attending the Legislative Visitor Services Conference in Victoria, British Columbia.
November	SATL Co-ordinator makes a presentation to 20 principals at their monthly principal support meeting.
Ongoing	Program web page on the Assembly web site updated after each school visit. Site includes information about the program, community partners, testimonials from students and teachers, and information about how to apply.
School Bags	Community partners Shaw Communications and Capital City Savings and Credit Union, along with the Legislative Assembly, produced expandable bags for participating students. The bags are a favourite of the students, who use them to carry program materials, books, and supplies.

Program Advertisement



For information call (780) 427-7362
or email visitorinfo@assembly.ab.ca
Check out our website at
www.assembly.ab.ca

The Year Ahead

I love to dress up and I like to act as an important person. It was interesting to watch the assembly.

A grade 6 student

The Year Ahead

Classes that have attended the program are already inquiring about returning next year. There are seven classes out of 23 in this program year that also participated in 2000–01. With increased visibility and promotion, the program expects to recruit 22 new classes in 2002–03.

This year's marketing initiatives will focus beyond Edmonton and area to attract schools from across the province. The aim is to have one class from an outside school district attend by the end of this program year and up to five in the next. Besides providing general program support to these schools, the co-ordinator will also provide fund-raising suggestions and information on local accommodation.

Presentations to grade 6 teachers and elementary school principals will continue, with a focus on making presentations during monthly principal support meetings, as these provide access to a larger audience and a more efficient way of promoting the program.

Since fall 2001, School-at-the-Legislature classes have had the opportunity to tour the facilities of the community partners. This is a learning opportunity that would be a valuable addition to the program if it could be offered on an ongoing basis.

A teacher workshop will be held at the end of August 2002 for teachers to prepare for their upcoming visits.

Dollars and Cents

Yesterday afternoon we saw the session. I was write! There was alot of cooperation, taking turns to talk supporting there party.

A grade 6 student

Dollars and Cents

Yesterday afternoon we saw the session. I was
write! There was alot of cooperation, taking turns
to talk supporting there party.

A grade 6 student

This is my Chair
This is where they discuss bills

Dollars and Cents

The School-at-the-Legislature program is completely funded by its community partners, whose support has been instrumental to the success of the program. See Table 3 for a list of program revenues and expenses.

Table 3: 2001–02 Program Budget

	2001/02 Projected	2001/02 Actual*
Revenue		
Shaw Communications	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Capital City Savings	25,000	25,000
Quality Color	25,000	25,000
School Fees	3,200	608
Total	$ 78,200	$ 75,608
Expenses		
Co-ordinator Salary/Benefits	$ 43,200	$ 24,183
Visual Identity & Print Material	25,000	25,000
Travel/Mileage	3,000	1,175
Promotion	3,000	1,750
Printing	2,000	2,081
Classroom Supplies	1,500	0
Workshops/Hosting	500	135
Total	$ 78,200	$ 54,324

Appendices

Though the week we learned more and more.
One thing that I thought was interesting was
meeting the Sargent-at-Arms.

A grade 6 student

Appendices

Appendix A: Curriculum Connections

The advantage of School-at-the-Legislature is its connection to the grade 6 curriculum. While Social Studies and Language Arts are the two most common curriculum links, the program also provides room for Math, Science, Physical Education, and Art connections.

Along with an application form, teachers are asked to submit a lesson plan outlining how they will take advantage of the week on site and how their experience at the Legislature relates to classroom work throughout the year. Some of those ideas are included here.

Social Studies

- Participating in a parliamentary debate.
- Studying the three levels of government.
- Learning how people take part in government, including the election process.
- Discovering how responsibilities and rights as a citizen begin at the local level.
- Creating a map of Alberta's 83 constituencies.
- Learning about the architecture of the Legislature Building.
- Comparing/contrasting how people in China and Canada meet their needs. Includes a Chinatown trip.
- Recognizing how Greece has affected western civilization through values, beliefs, and ideas.

English/Language Arts

- Journal writing.
- Notetaking during interviews.
- Newspaper article writing.
- Preparing reports based on interviews.
- Creating a newsletter based on the week at the Legislature.
- Finding out how the media collects and distributes information.
- Presentations by individuals, groups, or the class.

Art

- Sketching the Legislature Building interior and exterior.
- Analyzing form in nature and in man-made objects.
- Creating newspaper collages.

Science

- Taking nature walks on the grounds or conducting an environmental audit.
- Studying the river valley ecosystem.
- Identifying trees and vegetation on Legislature grounds.
- Studying air and flight characteristics.
- Learning evidence and investigation. Includes a trip to the Law Courts.

Math

- Learning how the government collects and distributes tax dollars.
- Measuring and graphing sizes and shapes on the Legislature grounds.
- Conducting a statistical analysis of budgets.

Physical Education

- Completing the Health Loops walk in the Legislature pedway.
- Taking a self-guided tour of the Legislature grounds.
- Walking in the river valley.
- Skating in the winter.

Life Careers

- Comparing how school habits relate to the world of work.
- Learning about different occupations.

Appendix B: Evaluation Summary

The following comments are based on 125 evaluations received from five classes from Patricia Heights, Lee Ridge, and Westbrook elementary schools. The evaluations were completed between March and June 2001.

1. What do you remember the most from the week at the Alberta Legislature?

The three most common comments were:

a) the interviews

b) the Mock Legislature debate

c) the tour of the Legislature

2. What were the top 3 things that you learned that was new and interesting?

This was more difficult to summarize, since the comments depended on interviews each student had. Generally, the focus was on learning about the roles of government and opposition, as well as the responsibilities of MLAs and Assembly staff. A selection of comments follows.

"I learned how to debate well."

"I learned about the history of Alberta about the Legislature and some of the people in the Legislature."

"I learned about how the Legislature runs."

"I learned how a debate works."

"How voting is done."

"The different jobs there are in government."

3. What were the top 3 things you didn't like?

The three most common comments were:

a) the walking to the interviews

b) having to take the stairs all the time

c) the classroom was small

4. Is there something you would change?

A large number of students said they wouldn't change anything about the program; others had specific suggestions. Some of their comments follow.

"More access to computers."

"Change into another classroom."

"I would not change anything about the week."

"I would let us debate about more than one issue."

"Nothing other than all the assignments."

"If possible even more interviews with important people."

5. Was there something that you wish you could have done during the week?

While this question brought out a variety of responses, quite a few students mentioned they would like to have met the Premier. Some other responses are listed below.

"I would have wanted to meet the Premier but he was away."

"I completed all the things I wanted to do."

"I wish we could have had more time in the Leg. building, for more time to appreciate its elegance."

"I wish I could have learned more about the Legislature and its history."

"Tour the building more."

"I would liked to have met all the people involved in Government."

6. Any other suggestions or comments?

Here students were given the opportunity to comment on any aspect of the program not covered in previous questions. Some of their comments follow.

"I just hope that the students from other schools can come to the Legislature to learn what I learned."

"I loved the field trip! It was my favorite field trip! I wish we could stay longer because there are so many things to learn."

"The tours and the interviews were awesome."

"I learned many things on government! I personally liked it because instead of just learning we also got to see what we were learning. That made it more interesting and easier to comprehend."

"All the workers that we either met or interviewed were very nice."

"Very fun! Learned lots!"

"I liked our classroom."

"The week at the Legislature was the best field trip ever"

"I think that this was a very well planned and enlightening experience that ties in well with the curriculum. I would definitely do this again."

"I hope many more classes have as good as experience as I did."

ST. GERARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL

12415 - 85 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T5B 3H3
TELEPHONE (780) 474 - 5208
FAX 474 - 6257

Lorraine Williamson

"a better place to learn"

July 24, 2000

Jackie Edwards
Visitor Services
Alberta Legislature

Dear Jackie:

Now that the school year is over, most teachers are looking forward to the new year which begins in September. It's time to evaluate what we've done, keep what we like, and improve where we see the need. A regret I have as I plan for my new students, is that I won't be able to offer them a "Week at the Leg.". As a single educational activity, this program had the most significant impact on student learning for my students of last year.

As I'm sure you are aware, we have three major Social Studies topics in Grade Six and Government is one of them. By spending a week at the Legislative site, students were able to come to a much better understanding of the role and processes of government and of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy. Because this week included such a variety if activities (attending assembly twice, interviewing, role playing, games, tours, etc.), the concepts were presented in a variety of ways and were accessible to students no matter what their predominant learning style.

I will apply for this program again because I believe it was the single most valuable set of lessons I was able to provide for my students last year but I realize that unless you are able to secure funding you will again be forced to severely limit the number of classes who can participate. I sincerely hope that you will find a sponsor who is interested in supporting this very worthwhile educational venture. I am enclosing excerpts of some student writing for your interest and information.

Sincerely,

Lorraine

Lorraine Williamson

EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mrs. Joanne Ritcey-Devaney
Principal

Ms. Silvia Franzese
Assistant Principal

PATRICIA HEIGHTS SCHOOL

16216 - 78th Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta, T5R 3E6
Tel: (403) 487-0550
Fax: (403) 489-5718

John Perrino, Program Coordinator
School at the Legislature
Pedway Mall, Government Centre
10820-98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2N6

November 8, 2001

Dear John,

I am writing to say how much I appreciate the excellent assistance we received in organizing the week at the Legislature for our grade six students this fall and to thank you for this exceptional learning opportunity. The wealth of experiences the students enjoyed and the obvious interest of everyone they met at the legislature to ensure that their experiences were of the highest quality was truly exceptional.

Through their week at the Legislature our students have learned so much about the roles and functions of the provincial government. Their first hand experiences with protocol, the mock Legislature, the meetings with front line politicians and behind-the-scenes people, and the opportunity to tour and work in the Legislature Building for a week provided for a very rich week of learning.

The School at the Legislature program is a very definite asset to the study of government in the grade six curriculum. The quality of the week long experiences our students enjoyed while they were there has given this unit meaning and purpose. The knowledge our students have acquired has contributed to their growth as citizens of Alberta. This is one aspect of their grade six year that they will always remember.

Thank you, John, for helping make this a reality for us.

Sincerely,

Berenice Taylor

Berenice Taylor
Principal
Patricia Heights School

GREENFIELD SCHOOL

3735 – 114 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 2G6 - 434-8581

November 22nd, 2001

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the School-at-the-Legislature program. I had the opportunity this year to take part in this amazing program. I was very impressed with the facilities offered and the helpfulness of the program coordinator, John Perrino.

The School-at-the-Legislature program offered my students a hands-on, real life learning experience that they would have never received in the classroom. This experience will stay with them for a very long time. They were able to meet important individuals and go places in the Legislature that they probably will never get to do again. My students felt very welcome and important when at the Legislature due to the acceptance of this program by the staff at the Legislature building.

Though we have finished the program my students and parents are still talking about the field trip. Parents were amazed with what the children did and learnt while at the Legislature. They felt that this was the best field trip they have participated in, and felt it was not only informative for the children, but for themselves as well.

Since returning from the School-at-the-Legislature program, my students knowledge on government issues and responsibilities has increased dramatically. I would recommend, and have, to anyone that is able to par-take in it.

I found this program to be an amazing experience for not only my students, but myself as well. I highly support this program, and hope that I will be able to take part in it again in the near future. I would like to thank the program for giving me the opportunity to bring life into the grade six Government Unit, and enlightening the minds of my students.

Thank you,

Stacy Mayoh
Grade 6 teacher
Greenfield School

We believe.
Kids
achieve.

THE PREMIER OF ALBERTA

November 2, 2001

Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

It is a pleasure to offer my support for the 2002 – 2003 School-at-the-Legislature program presented by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

This inventive province-wide program allows Grade 6 students and teachers hands-on experience into the realities of politics, the parliamentary process, as well as the chance to meet some of the members of the current government.

I believe that the cornerstone of a sturdy foundation for lifelong learning is seeing first hand how the process works. This program is part of a growing network of classrooms in the community that are benefiting our students.

All the best for another successful school year here at the Legislature!

Sincerely yours,

Ralph Klein

RK/kvp

cc: Brian Hodgson
Sergeant-at-Arms

John Perrino
School-at-the-Legislature Coordinator

Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2B6 Telephone (780) 427-2251 Fax (780) 427-1349

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

MARY O'NEILL, MLA
St. Albert
and
Chair, Standing Policy Committee
Health and Community Living

October 24, 2001

Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the House
324 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Mr. Kowalski:

I am writing in support of the School at the Legislature Program. Having participated in it since its inception I have high praise for it. I love having the children come to "interview" me. They are genuinely interested in how government works and have very intelligent questions and opinions.

This program has left no doubt in my mind as to its value. Please allow it to continue.

Sincerely,

Mary O'Neill

Mary O'Neill, MLA
St. Albert

cc: Brian Hodgson, Sergeant At Arms
John Perrino

127 Legislature Building, Edmonton AB T5K 2B6, Telephone: (780) 415 0975; Fax: (780) 415 9450
Constituency Office: 14 Perron St. St. Albert, AB T8N 1E4 Telephone: (780) 459 9113; Fax (780) 460 9815

Alberta

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
GOVERNMENT HOUSE LEADER

Visitor Services
Government Centre, Pedway Mall
10820 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2N6

School at the Legislature

November 15, 2001

Dear John,

I would like to offer my commendations to yourself and the School at the Legislature program for the wonderful venue you provide to young people to learn what the Legislature is all about. It is a great idea and I have been honored to be a participant. I offer my undivided support for the program to continue and hope to see it as a permanent program in the Visitor Services repertoire of activities.

Continued good luck John and thanks again for the opportunity to participate.

I can be reached at 422-4931, david.gillies@gov.ab.ca.

Regards.

David Gillies

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

21 November 2001

Mr. John Perrino
Coordinator, School at the Legislature Program
Visitor Services Office
Legislative Assembly of Alberta
Legislature Pedway

Dear Mr. Perrino:

I am writing to convey my impressions of the impact of the School-at-the Legislature Program on its participants. As one of the managers who has been interviewed on a regular basis by students and having elicited feedback from a number of participating teachers and parents, I have the following observations:

> My sense is that the program has enabled teachers to make more concrete the somewhat abstract notions involved in the teaching of parliamentary democracy and to generate an keener interest in the subject matter than usually exists in the learning of this material. Perhaps the most interesting comments have been from the accompanying parents who have observed on the enthusiasm that their kids are demonstrating about their week at the Legislature. The parents are also thankful of the opportunity to participate along with their children and learn about the subject matter that their kids are being exposed to.

I look forward to meeting with the school groups scheduled for the balance of this year's program.

Yours truly,

W. J. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

801 LEGISLATURE ANNEX
9718 – 107 STREET
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA
T5K 1E4

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

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Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Room 325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

November 21, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I would like to offer my support for the School-at-the-Legislature programme. Over the past three years I have been an active participant through interviews with the many classes that have attended.

Innovative and creative ways of achieving our goals in our outreach mandate have my complete support. With our community partners, Shaw Communications, Capital City Savings and Quality Color, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta has been able to provide a unique learning opportunity for grad six students across the province.

I'm pleased to continue supporting School-at-the-Legislature and hope that it remains a fixture within the outreach mandate of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Brian Hodgson
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Alberta
INFRASTRUCTURE

Property and Supply Management

Room 122 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5K 2B6

Telephone 780/427-7453
Fax 780/422-5133

Toll-Free connection outside Edmonton – Dial 310-0000

November 6, 2001

The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Speaker Kowalski:

Re: School-at-the-Legislature Program

Since the inception of the program in 1998, my staff and myself have had the opportunity to participate in the School-at the Legislature program. Through interviews and job shadowing the students have received a wider view of the many roles Property Management plays in the operation of the Legislature Building. We have been impressed with the students' enthusiasm through their questions and attentiveness. The opportunity this provides for all involved results in a positive and interactive learning experience.

Thank you for the support from the staff, sponsors, teachers and volunteers that make this a gratifying worthwhile program.

Yours truly,

Jay V. Smith, Facilities Manager
Legislature Building

cc: B. Hodgson, Sergeant at Arms
J. Perrino, School-at-the-Legislature Coordinator

Printed on recycled paper

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
ALBERTA

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October 24, 2001

The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Speaker Kowalski:

RE: School-at-the-Legislature Program

Over the past year, my staff and I have had the opportunity to speak to school groups who have participated in the Alberta Legislative Assembly's School-at-the-Legislature program. We have found this to be an interesting, challenging, and rewarding activity. The students are usually very keen and attentive, and we are always surprised at the perceptive and intelligent questions they ask us.

I would like to offer my wholehearted support for the continuation of this program. Along with our corporate partners, Capital City Savings, the Quality Group of Companies, and Shaw Communications Inc., I believe that the Legislative Assembly Office is providing an unique opportunity to show how an important democratic institution works and how citizens interact with that institution. Students learn how the Legislative Assembly operates and, in turn, take that information back to their school, their homes, and their communities. I see this as fitting well with our mandate to "inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament."

I am pleased to participate in the School-at-the-Legislature program and hope to do so in the future. I anticipate that many schools will be able to visit us through this program. It is gratifying to be part of such a forward-looking, positive, interactive learning experience.

Yours truly,

JBreault

Jacqueline Breault
Manager

c. Brian Hodgson, Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security Services and Sergeant-at-Arms
John Perrino, School-at-the-Legislature Co-ordinator

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216 LEGISLATURE BUILDING
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E-MAIL: library@assembly.ab.ca

02 November, 2001

Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
325 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of Sandra Perry, Legislature Librarian, I am pleased to provide a letter in support of the School at the Legislature program.

Library staff have enjoyed the opportunity of meeting with numerous students, teachers and parents who have participated in the program. Through tours, orientation sessions and interviews, we attempt to explain the role of the library in providing information to Members and their support staff in carrying out both their parliamentary and constituency functions. The program also provides an opportunity to stress the value of information in the quest for lifelong learning and to point out the type of information that is available electronically from library web sites.

It is our impression that the program does indeed provide students with "a real-world experience that puts life into learning".

Our thanks to the sponsors for their continuing support of the very worthwhile School at the Legislature program.

Sincerely yours,

Karen L. Powell

Karen L. Powell
Assistant Legislature Librarian

cc. Brian Hodgson, Sergeant-at-Arms, 412 Legislature Building
John Perrino, School at the Legislature Coordinator, Main Floor, Legislature Annex

COL\SPEAKER.LTR